



Utah Commission
on Criminal and
Juvenile Justice

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

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Utah Crime Victimization Survey

During 2001, the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) conducted the state's first comprehensive Crime Victimization Survey. The survey, covering January through December of 2000, asked Utah's citizens about their perceptions of safety and their personal experience with crime. Findings from the survey were published in the report, "Shedding Light: 2000 Utah Crime Victimization Survey."

Although crime was one of the top concerns facing Utahns during 2000, most respondents (83.6%) felt safe in their own communities. In spite of a record low reported crime rate, Utahns believed crime had increased over the past three years and will continue to increase over the coming three years. However, Utahns' feelings of personal safety were not significantly impacted by crime occurring in their communities.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents felt illegal drugs were not a problem in their neighborhoods and over three-quarters felt gangs were not a problem in their communities. Most of the respondents, 66.8%, believed law enforcement in their community performed well or very well. Three-quarters of respondents believed a lack of

parental discipline, the breakdown of families, and illegal drugs are in part responsible for crime problems in Utah.

The survey found that 41.1% of respondents were victims of at least one crime in 2000. These victims were more likely to experience property crimes than violent crimes. The most common crime reported was vandalism, with 23.0% of respondents experiencing this crime. The least common crime reported was rape or attempted rape, with 0.7% (15 out of 2,201 respondents) experiencing this crime.

Reporting crime is a very personal decision, and many victims did not report crimes to police. Victims of property crime were more likely to report the crime to police than victims of violent crime. With the exception of vandalism, nearly half of the property crimes were reported to police. An overwhelming majority of vic-

tims of violence did not report the crime to police. Victims commonly responded they didn't report the incident to police because the offender was a friend or family member or because the victim was afraid of the offender.

Domestic violence occurred with 3.3% of respondents. Of these, 58.0% experienced this crime multiple times during 2000, and 10.1% experienced it on ten or more occasions. Of these victims, 87.0% did not report the offense to police.

Finally, victims generally reported their experience with crime had little impact on their lives. As expected, victims of violent crime

were more likely to have their lives impacted. Only 3.9% of respondents kept a gun in their home for protection purposes only, and 5.9% reported carrying a gun outside of their home for protection purposes.

CCJJ

The Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) was created within the Governor's Office to:

- promote broad philosophical agreement concerning the objectives of the criminal and juvenile justice system in Utah
- provide a mechanism for coordinating the functions of the various branches and levels of government concerned with criminal and juvenile justice
- coordinate statewide efforts to reduce crime and victimization in Utah.

Criminal and Juvenile Justice Research Consortium

The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Research Consortium (Consortium) is taking shape. The Consortium is a partnership between CCJJ and higher

education to enhance the education and training of students in criminal and juvenile justice and to significantly enhance CCJJ's research capabilities.

Through the Consortium, university researchers can bring to bear their extensive expertise and research resources on state criminal and juvenile

justice research needs in the face of limited resources. University Consortium participants, needed research, research underway, and completed research can be found on CCJJ's website at www.justice.utah.gov/cjjc/.

Crime In Utah

Utah & U.S. Index Crime Rate 1980 to 2000

Utah's index crime rate in 2000 was 4,087 per 100,000, a 12.6% decrease over 1999. Since its peak in 1995, Utah's total index crime rate decreased 29.7%, resulting in a 21 year low. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Over the prior 20 years, Utah's index crime rate has been quite similar to the national rate. However, during the most recent five years, Utah's rate was consistently higher than the national rate. During 2000, for the first time in five years, Utah's index crime rate fell below the national rate.

Utah & U.S. Violent Crime Rate 1980 to 2000

Utah's violent crime rate in 2000 was 238 per 100,000, an 8.8% decrease over 1999. Since its peak in 1997, Utah's violent crime rate has decreased 25.1%, resulting in a 21 year low. Comparing violent crime rates from 1999 to 2000, murder decreased 3.7%, rape increased 4.0%, robbery

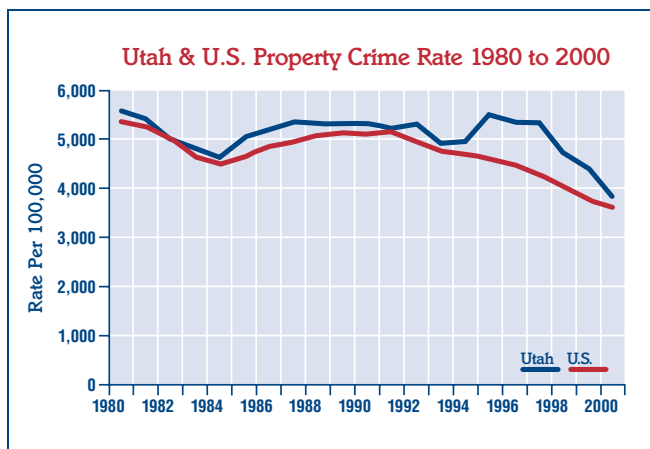
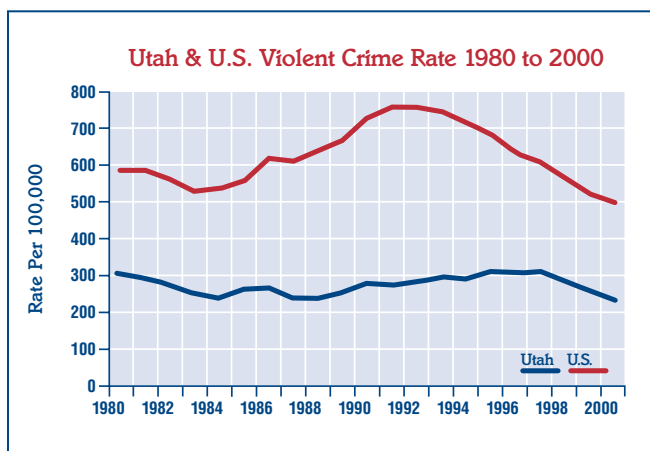
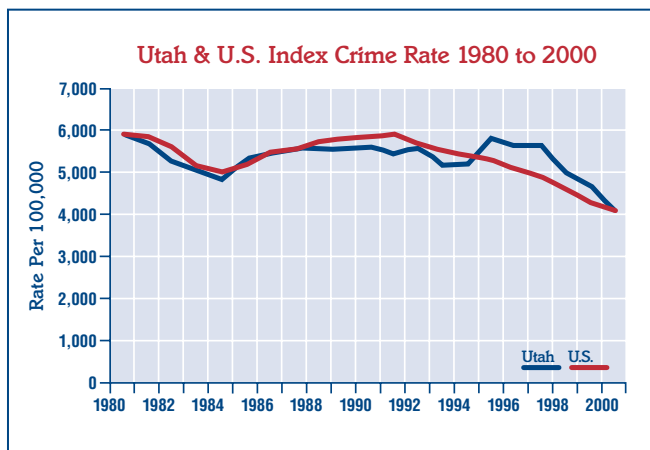
increased 3.0%, and aggravated assault decreased 15.1%. Preliminary 2001 crime data indicates a large increase in the number of murders in Utah.

Historically, Utah's violent crime rate has been much lower than the national rate. In 2000, the national violent crime rate was more than double Utah's rate.

Utah & U.S. Property Crime Rate 1980 to 2000

Utah's property crime rate in 2000 was 3,849 per 100,000, a 12.8% decrease over 1999. Since its peak in 1995, Utah's property crime rate has decreased 30.0%, resulting in a 21 year low. Comparing property crime rates from 1999 to 2000, burglary decreased 8.3%, larceny/theft decreased 12.9%, motor vehicle theft decreased 20.1%, and arson decreased 18.3%.

Utah's property crime rate has been consistently higher than the national rate. However, the gap between these rates is narrowing. In 2000, the national property crime rate was 6.0% lower than Utah's rate. Utah's high property crime rate is primarily due to larceny crimes such as theft from motor vehicles and shoplifting.



Juvenile Justice Grant Programs

\$375,000

State Crime Prevention and Gang Grants

Thirteen programs were funded this year to promote the prevention of crime and reduce involvement in youth gangs. Programs included youth counseling services, mediation training for high-risk youth, after-school programs, and teen job training.

\$792,000

Title II Formula Grants

The Utah Board of Juvenile Justice awarded federal funds to 23 new and continuation juvenile justice programs. The disproportionate confinement of minority youth in Utah's secure facilities remained a high priority and several programs were funded to intervene earlier

with minority youth to divert them from the juvenile justice system.

\$87,500

Challenge Grant

Two programs were funded through the federal Challenge Grant with the goal of improving basic system services and expanding aftercare services for juveniles. Funds are being used to train juvenile justice staff on a newly developed juvenile assessment tool and to provide aftercare support for youth transitioning back into the community from a secure care setting.

\$470,807

Title V Delinquency Prevention Grants

The Title V program currently involves the communities of Millard County, West Valley City, Bountiful, Clearfield, Murray, Midvale, and Springville. To receive funding, communities were required to form a

Prevention Policy Board, conduct a thorough risk and resource assessment, and develop a three-year action plan. Funded activities include after-school recreation, life-skills training, and police mentoring efforts.

Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP)

Nine counties continued to maintain SHOCAP to improve the identification and tracking of serious juvenile offenders. To facilitate the exchange of information on these youth, Utah County developed a secure web-based system that is currently being used by eight of the programs. Funding to support SHOCAP has come from JAIBG, Title II Formula Grants, and local resources.

CARE

Utah is in the fourth year of developing a new case management system for the juvenile justice system that will greatly enhance our ability to hold youths accountable for their actions. One of the unique features of this effort is that the Division of Youth Corrections and the Administrative Office of the Courts are jointly developing CARE. Thus far we have allocated over \$3.6 million in federal funding for this project. It is scheduled for completion in 2002.

Utah Crime Reduction Plan

The Utah Crime Reduction Plan (UCRP) has been a top priority for CCJJ. While many objectives have been met or are being addressed, there is still a lot of work ahead. The UCRP has been instrumental in providing a blueprint for law enforcement

and other criminal and juvenile justice professionals in crafting their strategic plans.

During the CCJJ 2001 Annual Meeting, discussion was directed to review and update the UCRP goals and objectives. Now complete, the updated plan and actions taken to address the plan's objectives is posted on CCJJ's website www.justice.utah.gov.

Utah Drug and Violent Crime Grant Program

Governor Leavitt designated CCJJ as the Utah agency responsible for coordinating and administering the Edward Byrne Memorial Drug and Violent Crime Grant. Utah's allocation for the 2001 grant year was \$4,511,369 of which approximately 55% was provided to local government. In 2002, Utah will apply for \$4,515,473 from the Byrne Grant Program.

Utah's 2000 Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Control Plan (3 year strategy) targeted:

- Illegal drug activity
- White-collar technology crimes
- Substance abuse treatment
- Sex offender treatment
- Adult and juvenile criminal activity and violence
- Court delay reduction efforts
- Overcrowded conditions in detention centers and jails

Programs to receive funding in 2002 include:

- Multi-jurisdictional drug task forces
- Gang Task Forces
- Crime scene investigations
- Offender diversion programs
- Adult and juvenile drug and alcohol treatment
- Court delay reduction and case management programs
- Crime lab enhancements
- Criminal history improvement projects

Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grants (VOITIS)

Since the inception of the VOITIS federal grant program in FY 1996, Utah has received \$24.4 million. Congress did not renew this program for FY 2002. Funds can continue to be expended until FY 2006. If approved by the 2002 Legislature, additional funding in the amount of \$7.8 million will be provided for construction of youth correction facilities in San Juan and Washington counties. A total of \$1.2 million has also been allocated for drug testing and interdiction programs in the Department of Corrections.

Technology Grants and Plans

Criminal Justice Data Integration

Utah was one of twenty-six states awarded a grant by the federal government to integrate our justice information systems. This grant (\$650,000) will allow Utah to focus on information sharing between justice agencies. Utah will use this money to expand our Utah Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (UCJIS) to include data from District Courts and Corrections. In addition, the money will provide funding to local jurisdictions to help integrate local agency record management systems data with the state databases. UCJIS is written to provide data to justice agencies through the WEB.

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

In 2001, Utah received \$530,000 for the continuation of NCHIP. This money provides for an equipment upgrade for the Department of Public Safety to improve response time, money to the Department of Corrections for enhancements to the sex offender registry and improvements in the digital signature capabilities of the Courts. To date, Utah has

received over \$3.5 million in federal funding for NCHIP.

National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS)

In 2001, Utah received \$140,000 in federal funding from the National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS) grant program. NIBRS, or incident based reporting, provides law enforcement officials and policy makers with arrest reporting information in much greater detail than standard Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data. NIBRS funding is currently allocated to three Utah projects supporting the effort of achieving statewide incident based reporting. Approximately 80% of the state's population is currently covered by NIBRS reporting.

Justice Court Automation

CCJJ continues to fund the Administrative Office of the Courts to aid Justice Courts in converting from paper-based reporting to electronic reporting. This year the Judicial Council included a provision that requires Justice Courts to electronically report dispositions before re-certification in 2004. Electronic reporting will enhance the timeliness, quality and completeness of the state's law enforcement databases, including Driver's License, Statewide Warrants, and Criminal History.

Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

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